

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, applicant has amended the specification. No new matter is added. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked up version of the amended specification is attached.

Entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

April 24, 2001

By:

Robert M. Schulman
Robert M. Schulman, Reg. No. 31,196
David H. Milligan, Reg. No. 42,893

HUNTON & WILLIAMS
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1500
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201

MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

Page 5, paragraph 2

An example of BNP is human BNP comprising 32 amino acids and involving the formation of a disulfide bond, like the above-described ANP (Sudoh et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., Vol. 159, p. [1420] 1427, 1989) (Seq. ID No. 4). Various BNP's of the origin other than human, such as pig BNP (Seq. ID No. 6) and rat BNP (Seq. ID No. 7), are also known, and can be used similarly. A further example is chicken BNP (Seq. ID No. 8).